



ALEDO ISD BOARD MEETING TEMPLATE

MEETING DATE: December 16, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: School FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) Rating Report

PRESENTER: Earl Husfeld, Chief Financial Officer

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Senate Bill 218 of the 77th Legislature (2001) directed the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Comptroller of Public Accounts, to develop and implement a financial accountability rating system for school districts in Texas. This financial accountability rating system is officially referred to as School FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas).
- The primary goal of School FIRST is to achieve quality performance in the management of school districts' financial resources, a goal made more significant due to the complexity of accounting associated with Texas' school finance system.
- School FIRST holds school districts accountable for the quality of their financial management practices. The rating system also discloses the quality of local management and decision-making processes that impact the allocation of financial resources in Texas public schools.
- The 2024-2025 School FIRST accountability rating system assigns one of four financial accountability ratings to Texas school districts, with the highest being A - Superior Achievement, followed by B - Above Standard Achievement, C - Meets Standard Achievement, and F - Substandard Achievement.
- The 2024-2025 School FIRST rating is based on an analysis of staff and student data reported for the 2023-2024 school year and audited budgetary and actual financial data for the 2024 fiscal year ending August 31, 2024.
- After receiving official notification of the District's School FIRST rating from TEA, each school district is required to announce and hold a public meeting to explain the District's rating and the District's performance under each of the twenty-one (21) indicators. The following pages provide this information for the Aledo ISD. Also included is a detailed explanation of the twenty-one (21) indicators.
- During this public meeting, the District is also required to review certain disclosures that must be included in the financial management report. The required disclosures pertain to reimbursements to the Superintendent and Board of Trustees for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the Superintendent's employment contract at the time of the School FIRST hearing. These required disclosures are included in the following pages and on the District's website.
- The Aledo ISD received the highest School FIRST rating of A - Superior Achievement for 2024-2025.
- The District has received the highest rating for the prior twenty-two years as well.



ALEDO ISD BOARD MEETING TEMPLATE

- For 2024-2025, the District received a score of 98. A score of 70 must be received to pass, with a score of 100 being the maximum that may be obtained.
- An explanation on How Ratings are Assessed and a Glossary are included in the following pages.

FISCAL INFORMATION:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

2024-2025 School FIRST Rating Report for Aledo ISD

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

None – Public Meeting/Informational Report



Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas

**2024-2025 RATINGS BASED ON SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024 DATA - DISTRICT STATUS
DETAIL**

Name: ALEDO ISD(184907)	Publication Level 1: 8/8/2025 12:54:09 PM
Status: Passed	Publication Level 2: 8/8/2025 4:49:42 PM
Rating: A = Superior Achievement	Last Updated: 11/5/2025 12:55:08 PM
District Score: 98	Passing Score: 70

#	Indicator Description	Updated	Score
1	<u>Was the complete annual financial report (AFR) and data submitted to the TEA within 30 days of the November 27 or January 28 deadline depending on the school district's fiscal year end date of June 30 or August 31, respectively?</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:54 PM	Yes
2	<u>Was there an unmodified opinion in the AFR on the financial statements as a whole? (The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) defines unmodified opinion. The external independent auditor determines if there was an unmodified opinion.)</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:54 PM	Yes
3	<u>Was the school district in compliance with the payment terms of all debt agreements at fiscal year end? (If the school district was in default in a prior fiscal year, an exemption applies in following years if the school district is current on its forbearance or payment plan with the lender and the payments are made on schedule for the fiscal year being rated. Also exempted are technical defaults that are not related to monetary defaults. A technical default is a failure to uphold the terms of a debt covenant, contract, or master promissory note even though payments to the lender, trust, or sinking fund are current. A debt agreement is a legal agreement between a debtor (= person, company, etc. that owes money) and their creditors, which includes a plan for paying back the debt.)</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:54 PM	Yes
4	<u>Did the school district make timely payments to the Teachers Retirement System (TRS), Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and other government agencies? (If the school district received a warrant hold and the warrant hold was not cleared within 30 days from the date the warrant hold was issued, the school district is considered to not have made timely payments and will fail critical indicator 4. If the school district was issued a warrant hold, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 95 points, A = Superior Achievement, even if the issue surrounding the initial warrant hold was resolved and cleared within 30 days.)</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:54 PM	Yes Ceiling Passed
			1 Multiplier Sum
5	<u>Was the total net position in the governmental activities column in the Statement of Net Position (net of accretion of interest for capital appreciation bonds, net pension liability, and other post-employment benefits) greater than zero? (If it is not, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 79 points, C = Meets Standard Achievement, unless the school district has an increase of students in membership over 5 years of 7 percent or more or 1,000 or more students in membership. If the school district has an increase of students in membership over 5 years of 7 percent or more or 1,000 or more students in membership, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 89 points, B = Above Standard Achievement.)</u>	11/5/2025 12:54:48 PM	Ceiling Passed
6	<u>Was the average change in (assigned and unassigned) fund balances over 3 years less than a 25 percent decrease or did the current year's assigned and unassigned fund balances exceed 75 days of operational expenditures? (If the school district fails indicator 6, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 89 points, B = Above Standard Achievement.)</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:54 PM	Ceiling Passed

7	<u>Was the number of days of cash on hand and current investments in the general fund for the school district sufficient to cover operating expenditures (excluding facilities acquisition and construction)? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:54 PM	10
8	<u>Was the measure of current assets to current liabilities ratio for the school district sufficient to cover short-term debt? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:54 PM	10
9	<u>Did the school district's general fund revenues equal or exceed expenditures (excluding facilities acquisition and construction)? If not, was the school district's number of days of cash on hand greater than or equal to 60 days? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:54 PM	10
10	This indicator is not being evaluated.		10
11	<u>Was the ratio of long-term liabilities to total assets for the school district sufficient to support long-term solvency? (If the school district's increase of students in membership over 5 years was 7 percent or more or 1,000 or more students in membership, then the school district passes this indicator.)</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:54 PM	10
12	<u>What is the correlation between future debt requirements and the district's assessed property value?</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:54 PM	8
13	<u>Was the school district's administrative cost ratio equal to or less than the threshold ratio? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:54 PM	10
14	<u>Did the school district not have a 15 percent decline in the students to staff ratio over 3 years (total enrollment to total staff)? If the student enrollment did not decrease, the school district will automatically pass this indicator.</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:54 PM	10
15	<u>Was the school district's ADA within the allotted range of the district's biennial pupil projection(s) submitted to TEA? If the district did not submit pupil projections to TEA, did it certify TEA's projections? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:54 PM	5
16	<u>Did the comparison of Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) data to like information in the school district's AFR result in a total variance of less than 3 percent of all expenditures by function? (If the school district fails indicator 16, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 89 points, B = Above Standard Achievement.)</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:54 PM	Ceiling Passed
17	<u>Did the external independent auditor report that the AFR was free of any instance(s) of material weaknesses in internal controls over financial reporting and compliance for local, state, or federal funds and free from substantial doubt about the school district's ability to continue as a going concern? (The AICPA defines material weakness.) (If the school district fails indicator 17, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 79 points, C = Meets Standard Achievement.)</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:54 PM	Ceiling Passed
18	<u>Did the external independent auditor indicate the AFR was free of any instance(s) of material noncompliance for grants, contracts, and laws related to local, state, or federal funds? (The AICPA defines material noncompliance.)</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:54 PM	10
19	<u>Did the school district post the required financial information on its website in accordance with Government Code, Local Government Code, Texas Education Code, Texas Administrative Code and other statutes, laws and rules that were in effect at the school district's fiscal year end?</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:54 PM	5
20	<u>Did the school district's administration and school board members discuss any changes and/or impact to local, state, and federal funding at a board meeting within 120 days before the district adopted its budget?</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:54 PM	Ceiling Passed
21	<u>Did the school district receive an adjusted repayment schedule for more than one fiscal year for an over-allocation of Foundation School Program (FSP) funds because of a financial hardship?</u>	4/23/2025 6:09:54 PM	Ceiling Passed
			98 Weighted Sum
			1 Multiplier Sum
			(100 Ceiling)
			98 Score

DETERMINATION OF RATING

A.	Did the school district fail any of the critical indicators 1, 2, 3, or 4? If so, the school district's rating is F for Substandard Achievement regardless of points earned.	
B.	Determine the rating by the applicable number of points.	
	A = Superior Achievement	90-100
	B = Above Standard Achievement	80-89
	C = Meets Standard Achievement	70-79
	F = Substandard Achievement	<70
<p>No Rating = A school district receiving territory that annexes with a school district ordered by the commissioner under TEC 13.054, or consolidation under Subchapter H, Chapter 41. No rating will be issued for the school district receiving territory until the third year after the annexation/consolidation.</p> <p>The school district receives an F if it scores below the minimum passing score, if it failed any critical indicator 1, 2, 3, or 4, if the AFR or the data were not both complete, or if either the AFR or the data were not submitted on time for FIRST analysis.</p>		

CEILING INDICATORS

Did the school district meet the criteria for any of the following **ceiling indicators** 4, 5, 6, 16, 17, 20, or 21? If so, the school district's applicable maximum points and rating are disclosed below. Please note, an F = Substandard Achievement Rating supersedes any rating earned as the result of the school district meeting the criteria of a ceiling indicator.

Determination of rating based on meeting ceiling criteria.	Maximum Points	Maximum Rating
Indicator 4 (Timely Payments) - School district was issued a warrant hold.	95	A = Superior Achievement
Indicator 5 (Total Net Position) - Negative total net position and do not have 7% or more or 1,000 or more increase in growth in students in membership over 5 years.	79	C = Meets Standard Achievement
Indicator 6 (Average Change in Fund Balance) - Response to indicator is <i>No</i> .	89	B = Above Standard Achievement
Indicator 16 (PEIMS to AFR) - Response to indicator is <i>No</i> .	89	B = Above Standard Achievement
Indicator 17 (Material Weaknesses) - Response to indicator is <i>No</i> .	79	C = Meets Standard Achievement
Indicator 20 (Property Values and Tax Discussion) - Response to indicator is <i>No</i> .	89	B = Above Standard Achievement
Indicator 21 (FSP Repayment Plan) - Response to indicator is <i>Yes</i> .	70	C = Meets Standard Achievement

Home Page: [Financial Compliance | Texas Education Agency](#) | Send comments or suggestions to FinancialAccountability@tea.texas.gov

THE **TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY**
 1701 NORTH CONGRESS AVENUE · AUSTIN, TEXAS, 78701 · (512) 463-9734

FIRST 5.15.14.0

User: Earl Husfeld
 User Role: District



Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas

2023-2024 RATINGS BASED ON SCHOOL YEAR 2022-2023 DATA - DISTRICT STATUS DETAIL

Name: ALEDO ISD(184907)	Publication Level 1: 8/8/2024 6:33:40 PM
Status: Passed	Publication Level 2: 8/8/2024 6:33:40 PM
Rating: A = Superior Achievement	Last Updated: 11/1/2024 4:04:01 PM
District Score: 96	Passing Score: 70

#	Indicator Description	Updated	Score
1	<u>Was the complete annual financial report (AFR) and data submitted to the TEA within 30 days of the November 27 or January 28 deadline depending on the school district's fiscal year end date of June 30 or August 31, respectively?</u>	4/19/2024 6:26:27 PM	Yes
2	<u>Was there an unmodified opinion in the AFR on the financial statements as a whole? (The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) defines unmodified opinion. The external independent auditor determines if there was an unmodified opinion.)</u>	4/19/2024 6:26:27 PM	Yes
3	<u>Was the school district in compliance with the payment terms of all debt agreements at fiscal year end? (If the school district was in default in a prior fiscal year, an exemption applies in following years if the school district is current on its forbearance or payment plan with the lender and the payments are made on schedule for the fiscal year being rated. Also exempted are technical defaults that are not related to monetary defaults. A technical default is a failure to uphold the terms of a debt covenant, contract, or master promissory note even though payments to the lender, trust, or sinking fund are current. A debt agreement is a legal agreement between a debtor (= person, company, etc. that owes money) and their creditors, which includes a plan for paying back the debt.)</u>	4/19/2024 6:26:27 PM	Yes
4	<u>Did the school district make timely payments to the Teachers Retirement System (TRS), Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and other government agencies? (If the school district received a warrant hold and the warrant hold was not cleared within 30 days from the date the warrant hold was issued, the school district is considered to not have made timely payments and will fail critical indicator 4. If the school district was issued a warrant hold, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 95 points, A = Superior Achievement, even if the issue surrounding the initial warrant hold was resolved and cleared within 30 days.)</u>	4/19/2024 6:26:27 PM	Yes Ceiling Passed
			1 Multiplier Sum
5	<u>Was the total net position in the governmental activities column in the Statement of Net Position (net of accretion of interest for capital appreciation bonds, net pension liability, and other post-employment benefits) greater than zero? (If it is not, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 79 points, C = Meets Standard Achievement, unless the school district has an increase of students in membership over 5 years of 7 percent or more or 1,000 or more students in membership. If the school district has an increase of students in membership over 5 years of 7 percent or more or 1,000 or more students in membership, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 89 points, B = Above Standard Achievement.)</u>	11/1/2024 4:03:46 PM	Ceiling Passed

6	<u>Was the average change in (assigned and unassigned) fund balances over 3 years less than a 25 percent decrease or did the current year's assigned and unassigned fund balances exceed 75 days of operational expenditures? (If the school district fails indicator 6, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 89 points, B = Above Standard Achievement.)</u>	4/19/2024 6:26:27 PM	Ceiling Passed
7	<u>Was the number of days of cash on hand and current investments in the general fund for the school district sufficient to cover operating expenditures (excluding facilities acquisition and construction)? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.</u>	4/19/2024 6:26:27 PM	10
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10	This indicator is not being evaluated.		10
11	<u>Was the ratio of long-term liabilities to total assets for the school district sufficient to support long-term solvency? (If the school district's increase of students in membership over 5 years was 7 percent or more or 1,000 or more students in membership, then the school district passes this indicator.)</u>	4/19/2024 6:26:27 PM	10
12	<u>What is the correlation between future debt requirements and the district's assessed property value?</u>	8/20/2024 1:59:36 PM	6
13	<u>Was the school district's administrative cost ratio equal to or less than the threshold ratio? See ranges below in the Determination of Points section.</u>	8/20/2024 1:59:36 PM	10
14	<u>Did the school district not have a 15 percent decline in the students to staff ratio over 3 years (total enrollment to total staff)? If the student enrollment did not decrease, the school district will automatically pass this indicator.</u>	4/19/2024 6:26:27 PM	10
15	This indicator is not being evaluated.		5
16	<u>Did the comparison of Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) data to like information in the school district's AFR result in a total variance of less than 3 percent of all expenditures by function? (If the school district fails indicator 16, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 89 points, B = Above Standard Achievement.)</u>	4/19/2024 6:26:27 PM	Ceiling Passed
17	<u>Did the external independent auditor report that the AFR was free of any instance(s) of material weaknesses in internal controls over financial reporting and compliance for local, state, or federal funds and free from substantial doubt about the school district's ability to continue as a going concern? (The AICPA defines material weakness.) (If the school district fails indicator 17, the maximum points and highest rating that the school district may receive is 79 points, C = Meets Standard Achievement.)</u>	4/19/2024 6:26:27 PM	Ceiling Passed
18	<u>Did the external independent auditor indicate the AFR was free of any instance(s) of material noncompliance for grants, contracts, and laws related to local, state, or federal funds? (The AICPA defines material noncompliance.)</u>	4/19/2024 6:26:27 PM	10
19	<u>Did the school district post the required financial information on its website in accordance with Government Code, Local Government Code, Texas Education Code, Texas Administrative Code and other statutes, laws and rules that were in effect at the school district's fiscal year end?</u>	4/19/2024 6:26:27 PM	5
20	<u>Did the school district's administration and school board members discuss any changes and/or impact to local, state, and federal funding at a board meeting within 120 days before the district adopted its budget?</u>	4/19/2024 6:26:27 PM	Ceiling Passed
21	<u>Did the school district receive an adjusted repayment schedule for more than one fiscal year for an over-allocation of Foundation School Program (FSP) funds because of a financial hardship?</u>	4/19/2024 6:26:27 PM	Ceiling Passed
			96 Weighted Sum

		1 Multiplier Sum
		(100 Ceiling)
		96 Score

DETERMINATION OF RATING

A.	Did the school district fail any of the critical indicators 1, 2, 3, or 4? If so, the school district's rating is F for Substandard Achievement regardless of points earned.	
B.	Determine the rating by the applicable number of points.	
	A = Superior Achievement	90-100
	B = Above Standard Achievement	80-89
	C = Meets Standard Achievement	70-79
	F = Substandard Achievement	<70
<p>No Rating = A school district receiving territory that annexes with a school district ordered by the commissioner under TEC 13.054, or consolidation under Subchapter H, Chapter 41. No rating will be issued for the school district receiving territory until the third year after the annexation/consolidation.</p> <p>The school district receives an F if it scores below the minimum passing score, if it failed any critical indicator 1, 2, 3, or 4, if the AFR or the data were not both complete, or if either the AFR or the data were not submitted on time for FIRST analysis.</p>		

CEILING INDICATORS

<p>Did the school district meet the criteria for any of the following ceiling indicators 4, 6, 16, 17, 20, or 21? If so, the school district's applicable maximum points and rating are disclosed below. Please note, an F = Substandard Achievement Rating supersedes any rating earned as the result of the school district meeting the criteria of a ceiling indicator.</p>		
Determination of rating based on meeting ceiling criteria.	Maximum Points	Maximum Rating
Indicator 4 (Timely Payments) - School district was issued a warrant hold.	95	A = Superior Achievement
Indicator 6 (Average Change in Fund Balance) - Response to indicator is <i>No</i> .	89	B = Above Standard Achievement
Indicator 16 (PEIMS to AFR) - Response to indicator is <i>No</i> .	89	B = Above Standard Achievement
Indicator 17 (Material Weaknesses) - Response to indicator is <i>No</i> .	79	C = Meets Standard Achievement
Indicator 20 (Property Values and Tax Discussion) - Response to indicator is <i>No</i> .	89	B = Above Standard Achievement
Indicator 21 (FSP Repayment Plan) - Response to indicator is <i>Yes</i> .	70	C = Meets Standard Achievement

School FIRST Annual Financial Management Report

ALEDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Reporting requirements for the financial management report for the School FIRST public hearing are found in Title 19 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 109, Budgeting, Accounting, and Auditing, Subchapter AA, Commissioner's Rules Concerning Financial Accountability Rating System, Section 109.1001(q), effective 08/01/2018. This rule describes requirements for the five (5) disclosures explained below that are to be presented as appendices in the School FIRST Financial Management Report.

Superintendent's Current Employment Contract

A copy of the Superintendent's current employment contract at the time of the School FIRST hearing is to be provided. In lieu of publication in the annual School FIRST Financial Management Report, the school district may choose to publish the Superintendent's employment contract on the school district's Internet site. If published on the Internet, the contract is to remain accessible for twelve months.

The Superintendent's contract is located on the District's Internet site: <http://www.aledoisd.org>

Reimbursements Received by the Superintendent and Board Members

For the Twelve-Month Period
Ended August 31, 2024

Description of Reimbursements	Superintendent	2023-2024 Board Members								
	Susan Bohn	David Lear	Jim Scott	Jennifer Loftin	Jeremy Pruett	Jessica Brown	Forrest Collins	Jennifer Taylor	Zach Tarrant	Hoyt Harris
Meals	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Lodging	2,077.73	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	2,485.09	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Motor Fuel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	2,110.00	668.37	485.00	233.37	485.00	183.37	768.38	668.37	668.37	803.38
Totals	\$ 6,672.82	\$ 668.37	\$ 485.00	\$ 233.37	\$ 485.00	\$ 183.37	\$ 768.38	\$ 668.37	\$ 668.37	\$ 803.38

Note - The spirit of the rule is to capture all "reimbursements" of expenses, regardless of the manner of payment, including direct pay, credit card, cash, and purchase order are to be reported. Reimbursements to be reported per category include:
 Meals – Meals consumed off of the school district's premises, and in-district meals at area restaurants (outside of board meetings, excludes catered meals for board meetings).
 Lodging - Hotel charges.
 Transportation - Airfare, car rental (may include fuel on rental), taxi, mileage reimbursement, leased car, parking, and tolls.
 Motor Fuel – Gasoline.
 Other - Registration fees, telephone/cell phone, internet service, fax machine, and other reimbursements (or on-behalf of) to the Superintendent and Board Member not defined above.

School FIRST Annual Financial Management Report

ALEDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Outside Compensation and/or Fees Received by the Superintendent for Professional Consulting and/or Other Personal Services

For the Twelve-Month Period
Ended August 31, 2024

Name(s) of Entity(ies)	Amount Received
None	\$ -
Total	\$ -

Note - Compensation does not include business revenues from the Superintendent's livestock or agricultural-based activities on a ranch or farm. Report gross amount received (do not deduct business expenses from gross revenues). Revenues generated from a family business that have no relationship to school district business are not to be disclosed.

Gifts Received by the Executive Officer(s) and Board Members (and First Degree Relatives, if any) (gifts that had an economic value of \$250 or more in the aggregate in the fiscal year)

For the Twelve-Month Period
Ended August 31, 2024

	<u>Superintendent</u>		<u>2023-2024 Board Members</u>							
	Susan Bohn	David Lear	Jim Scott	Jennifer Loftin	Jeremy Pruett	Jessica Brown	Forrest Collins	Jennifer Taylor	Zach Tarrant	Hoyt Harris
Summary Amounts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Note - An executive officer is defined as the Superintendent, unless the Board of Trustees or the District Administration names additional staff under this classification. (Any gifts received by their immediate family as described in Government Code, Chapter 573, Subchapter B, Relationships by Consanguinity or by Affinity will be reported under the applicable school official.)

Business Transactions Between School District and Board Members

For the Twelve-Month Period
Ended August 31, 2024

	<u>2023-2024 Board Members</u>								
	David Lear	Jim Scott	Jennifer Loftin	Jeremy Pruett	Jessica Brown	Forrest Collins	Jennifer Taylor	Zach Tarrant	Hoyt Harris
Summary Amounts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Note - The summary amounts reported under this disclosure are not to duplicate the items reported in the summary schedule of reimbursements received by board members.



How Ratings are Assessed

Preliminary ratings are released by TEA every calendar year on or before August 8. The commissioner's rules for School FIRST are contained in 19 TAC 109.1001. The rules include an attached figure (rating worksheet) for each rating year that specifies the rating indicators for that year.

The questions a school district must address in completing the worksheet used to assess its financial management system can be confusing to non-accountants. The indicators for **rating year 2024-2025 based on fiscal year 2024 financial data** are set out below with an explanation of what the questions mean—and what your district's answers can mean to its rating.

1. Was the complete annual financial report (AFR) and data submitted to the TEA within 30 days of the November 27 or January 28 deadline depending on the school district's fiscal year end date of June 30 or August 31, respectively?

A simple indicator. Was your Annual Financial Report filed by the deadline?

2. Was there an unmodified opinion in the AFR on the financial statements as a whole? (The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) defines unmodified opinion. The external independent auditor determines if there was an unmodified opinion.)

Review the AFR for an unmodified opinion and material weaknesses.

3. Was the school district in compliance with the payment terms of all debt agreements at fiscal year end? (If the school district was in default in a prior fiscal year, an exemption applies in following years if the school district is current on its forbearance or payment plan with the lender and the payments are made on schedule for the fiscal year being rated. Also exempted are technical defaults that are not related to monetary defaults. A technical default is a failure to uphold the terms of a debt covenant, contract, or master promissory note even though payments to the lender, trust, or sinking fund are current. A debt agreement is a legal agreement between a debtor (= person, company, etc. that owes money) and their creditors, which includes a plan for paying back the debt.)

This indicator seeks to confirm that your district has timely paid all bills/obligations, including financing arrangements to pay for school construction, school buses, photocopiers, etc.

4. Did the school district make timely payments to the Teachers Retirement System (TRS), Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and other government agencies? If the school district received a warrant hold and the warrant hold was not cleared within 30 days from the date the warrant hold was issued, the school district is considered to not have made timely payments and will fail this



indicator. If the school district was issued a warrant hold, the maximum points and highest rating the school district may receive is 95 points, A = Superior Achievement (even if the issue surrounding the initial warrant hold was resolved and cleared within 30 days).

This indicator seeks to confirm the district fulfilled its obligation to the TRS, TWC and IRS to transfer payroll withholdings and to fulfill any additional payroll-related obligations required to be paid by the district.

5. Was the total net position balance in the governmental activities column in the Statement of Net Position (net of accretion of interest for capital appreciation bonds, net pension liability, and other post-employment benefits) greater than zero? (If it is not, the maximum points and highest rating the school district may receive is 79 points, C = Meets Standard Achievement, unless the school district has an increase of students in membership over 5 years of 7 percent or more or 1,000 or more students in membership. If the school district has such an increase, the maximum points and highest rating the school district may receive is 89 points, B = Above Standard Achievement.)

This indicator determines if the total net position in the governmental activities column of the Statement of Net Position as reported in the Annual Financial Report is greater than zero. A positive

net position demonstrates financial solvency.

6. Was the average change in (assigned and unassigned) fund balance over 3 years less than a 25% decrease or did the current year assigned and unassigned fund balance exceed 75 days of operational expenditures? (If the school district fails indicator 6, the maximum points and highest rating the school district may receive is 89 points, B = Above Standard Achievement.)

This indicator measures the percentage change in fund balance to see whether the fund balance is declining too quickly, and if it is declining, whether sufficient fund balance remains to operate for at least 75 days.?

7. Was the number of days of cash on hand and current investments in the general fund for the school district sufficient to cover operating expenditures (excluding facilities acquisition and construction)?

This indicator measures how many days after the end of the fiscal year the school district could have disbursed funds for its operating expenditures without receiving any new revenues. At least 90 days must be covered to receive the maximum points.

8. Was the measure of current assets to current liabilities ratio for the school district sufficient to cover short-term debt?

This indicator measures whether the school district had sufficient short-term



assets at the end of the fiscal year to pay off its short-term liabilities. Did you meet or exceed the target amount in School FIRST?

9. Did the school district's general fund revenues equal or exceed expenditures (excluding facilities acquisition and construction)? If not, was the school district's number of days of cash on hand greater than or equal to 60 days?

This indicator simply asks, "Did you spend more than you earned?" (the school district will automatically pass this indicator if the school district had at least 60 days cash on hand.)

10. Did the school district average less than a 10 percent variance (90% to 110%) when comparing budgeted revenues to actual revenues for the last 3 fiscal years?

This indicator continues to be paused for the 2024-25 rating period.

11. Was the ratio of long-term liabilities to total assets for the school district sufficient to support long-term solvency? (If the school district's increase of students in membership over 5 years was 7 percent or more or 1,000 or more students in membership, then the school district passes this indicator.)

This question is like asking if a person's mortgage exceeds the market value of their home. Were you below the cap for this ratio in School FIRST? Fortunately, this indicator recognizes that high-growth districts incur additional operating costs to open new

instructional campuses.

12. What is the correlation between future debt requirements and the district's assessed property value?

This indicator asks about the school district's ability to make debt principal and interest payments. Did you meet or exceed the target amount in School FIRST?

13. Was the school district's administrative cost ratio equal to or less than the threshold ratio?

This indicator measures the percentage of their budget that Texas school districts spent on administration. Did you exceed the cap in School FIRST for districts of your size?

14. Did the school district *not* have a 15 percent decline in the students to staff ratio over 3 years (total enrollment to total staff)? (If the student enrollment did not decrease, the school district will automatically pass this indicator.)

If a decline in student enrollment is occurring, this indicator measures if the decline in total staff is in proportion to the declining enrollment over a 3-year period. If declining enrollment is occurring, the change in this ratio cannot exceed 15 percent.

15. Was the school district's ADA within the allotted range of the district's biennial pupil projection(s) submitted to TEA? If the district did not submit pupil projections to TEA, did it certify TEA's projections?

This indicator measures how well the



district was able to project average daily attendance for the coming biennium for payment purposes. Projected ADA is compared to actual.

16. Did the comparison of Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) data to like information in the school district's AFR result in a total variance of less than 3 percent of all expenditures by function? (If the school district fails this indicator, the maximum points and highest rating the district may receive is 89 points, B = Above Standard Achievement.)

This indicator measures the quality of data reported to PEIMS and in your Annual Financial Report to ensure that the data reported in each case "matches up." If the difference in numbers reported in any fund type is 3 percent or more, your district "fails" this measure.

17. Did the external independent auditor report that the AFR was free of any instance(s) of material weaknesses in internal controls over financial reporting and compliance for local, state, federal funds and free from substantial doubt about the school district's ability to continue as a going concern? (The AICPA defines material weakness.) (If the school district fails this indicator, the maximum points and highest rating the district may receive is 79 points, C = Meets Standard Achievement.)

A clean audit of your Annual Financial Report would state that your district has no material weaknesses in internal controls. Any internal weaknesses

create a risk of your district not being able to properly account for its use of public funds and should be immediately addressed.

18. Did the external independent auditor indicate the AFR was free of any instance(s) of material noncompliance for grants, contracts, and laws related to local, state, or federal funds? (The AICPA defines material noncompliance.)

This indicator measures whether the district is complying with laws, rules and regulations related to the expenditure of grant funds, contracts, and other state and federal funds.

19. Did the school district post the required financial information on its website in accordance with Government Code, Local Government Code, Texas Education Code, Texas Administrative Code and other statutes, laws and rules that were in effect at the school district's fiscal year end?

This indicator measures whether the district is complying with legal requirements related to financial transparency by posting all required information.

20. Did the school district's administration and school board members discuss any changes and/or impact to local, state, and federal funding at a board meeting within 120 days before the district adopted its budget? (If the school district fails this indicator, the maximum points and highest rating



the school district may receive is 89 points, B = Above Standard Achievement.)

This indicator measures whether the administration and the board had the opportunity to consider the impact of changes in local, state, and federal funding.

21. Did the school district receive an adjusted repayment schedule for more than one fiscal year for an over-allocation of Foundation School Program (FSP) funds because of a financial hardship? (If the school district fails this indicator, the maximum points and highest rating the school district may receive is 70 points, C = Meets Standard Achievement.)

This indicator determines if the district has an adjusted repayment schedule for an overallocation of FSP funds.



Glossary

Annual Financial Report (AFR): The audited annual report required by TEC section 44.008, that is due to TEA by no later than 150 days after the close of a school district's or an open-enrollment charter school's fiscal year.

Ceiling indicator: An upper limit (the maximum score) at which a score from a standard limit of a specific indicator will result regardless of overall points.

Debt: An amount of money owed to a person, bank, company, or other organization.

Electronic submission: The TEA electronic data feed format required for use by school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, and regional education service centers (ESCs).

Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST): The financial accountability rating system administered by the TEA in accordance with the TEC sections 39.082 and 39.085. The system provides additional transparency to public education finance and meaningful financial oversight and improvement for school districts (School FIRST) and open-enrollment charter schools and charter schools operated by a public institution of higher education under TEC, Chapter 12, Subchapters D and E (Charter FIRST).

Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of a school district or an open-enrollment charter school, which begins on July 1 or September 1 of each year, as determined by the board of trustees of the district or the governing body of the

charter holder in accordance with the TEC, §44.0011.

Foundation School Program (FSP): The program established under the TEC, Chapters 46, 48, and 49 or any successor program of state-appropriated funding for school districts in this state.

Summary of Finances (SOF) report: The document of record for FSP allocations. An SOF report is produced for each school district and open-enrollment charter school by the TEA division responsible for state funding that describes the school district's or open-enrollment charter school's funding elements and FSP state aid.

Texas Student Data System Public Education Information Management System (TSDS PEIMS): The system that school districts and open-enrollment charter schools use to load, validate, and submit their data to the TEA.

Warrant hold: The process by which state payments issued to payees indebted to the state, or payees with a tax delinquency, are held by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts until the debt is satisfied in accordance with the Texas Government Code section 403.055